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50 JUN 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on OSI Intelligence Production  
Program for Fiscal Year 1961

1. The research divisions of this Office have reviewed the draft intelligence production program which you forwarded with your memorandum of 4 June and have found a number of proposed projects which will be of great interest in our own fields of activity. There is attached a list of such projects and an indication of the ONS components which are particularly interested in them. These components would welcome the opportunity to consult with the appropriate OSI analysts and to coordinate drafts of the listed projects as they develop. We also have the following comments on specific aspects of the OSI program.

2. The results of certain research projects proposed by OSI promise to be very useful to ONS's Food and Agriculture Branch in evaluating Soviet capabilities for increasing agricultural production in the years ahead. OSI's evaluation of current activities and future trends in Soviet agricultural research with special emphasis on Soviet cereal grains and seed technology research will be of particular interest in this respect. An evaluation of Soviet capabilities in "weather modification and climate control" is of special interest because of the influence a capability in this field would have on the level of crop production.

3. The program of the Nuclear Energy Division contains a number of research topics the results of which will be most useful as guides to ONS's Fuels and Power Branch in costing the Soviet AE program. For example 1-4-D, Post-1952 Gaseous Diffusion Barrier Production and Technology in the USSR, should be very helpful. ID 1-33, Solvent Extraction of Irradiated Nuclear Fuels in the USSR, should also give us needed guidelines or parameters for costing chemical separations in the Soviet Union. We note some possibility

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of duplication between projects 1-4-C, Electric Power Available to Soviet Plutonium Production Sites, and 1-4-A, Summary of Known Electric Power Supplied to Soviet AEC Sites, and the work contemplated by GII in its support to RIF's on the Soviet Nuclear Energy Program. We recommend close cooperation between GII and GSR on these subjects.

4. The projects scheduled by the two offices in the field of automation should effectively complement each other, and, as noted in your memorandum of 12 May 1960 commenting on the NSA/GII research program, there appears to be no conflict. We are, however, somewhat concerned that the results of GII's project 6-9-A, Current Soviet Automation Programs, refers to "anticipated unemployment resulting from the Soviet use of automation." In fact, a major Soviet problem is one of overall shortage of skilled industrial labor during the coming five years. In any event, I am sure that you would agree that the effect of technological changes on the labor supply properly falls within GSR's area of responsibility.

5. A number of projects are contemplated by GII which bear on the interests of GSR's Geography Division. This Division stands ready to continue the support previously rendered to GII in connection with work covered by Project 1-4-A, Soviet Nuclear Weapon Development Capabilities, and Project 4-6A, Study of the Aral Sea Area, as Related to the Soviet W Field Test Program in Vozrozhdeniya Island.

6. In connection with Project 6-4-A, Soviet Developments in Gravity Research, the Geography Division is presently working on a report (FR 60.1776) that will summarize the entire positioning problem and provide an updating of Soviet developments in gravity research. Our objective is to relate the present state of the art to the essential intelligence problem of estimating Soviet capabilities. If I correctly understand Project 6-4-A to be a general survey, it is possible that these GII and GSR efforts could be fitted together as a joint product. This can be explored further.


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7. We are grateful for the opportunity to review your draft program which complements our own at so many points, and we are looking forward to a continuation and strengthening of the close working arrangements between analysts of the two offices in the pursuit of our common objectives during the coming year.

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OTTO E. GUTHE  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

Attachment

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